



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please see attached photos

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**CELEBRITY-HOSTED BENEFIT SCHEDULED FOR THE
GLOBAL AIDS INTERFAITH ALLIANCE (GAIA)**

***Jane Kaczmarek and Bradley Whitford are Presenting Sponsors;
Honorary Chair is Archbishop Desmond Tutu***

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 15, 2006) -- Actors Jane Kaczmarek ("*Help Me Help You*") and her husband Bradley Whitford ("*Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*") will host a spring benefit for the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance in the backyard gardens of their San Marino home in Southern California on April 21, 2007. Nobel Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu is the honorary chair of the three-year 100 Villages campaign of which this event is a part.

"The AIDS epidemic in Africa is devastating," said Kaczmarek. "Without massively expanded prevention, treatment and care efforts, the death toll will continue to rise. GAIA has accepted the daunting challenge and proved that significant change is possible. Bradley and I want to help that effort continue to thrive."

The Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (www.thegaia.org) partners with religious organizations in the Central African country of Malawi to feed, clothe, and educate AIDS orphans; empower village women; provide HIV testing; and train in HIV prevention. All proceeds from the benefit will support GAIA's work in the villages of Malawi, a country of nearly 13 million where about 14% of the adult population is infected with HIV/AIDS and about 550,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS (*Source: UNAIDS*).

"We're extremely excited and honored to have the support of Jane and Brad," said GAIA President Bill Rankin. "It is our hope that this event will raise both awareness and funds for HIV prevention and care in Malawi."

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Kaczmarek will emcee the event, titled “Village by Village: A Garden Party for GAIA.” Guests will also enjoy live jazz, a large selection of hors d’oeuvres, and an appearance by author Anne Lamott. Several additional celebrities are expected to join the benefit.

Major event sponsors will be invited to a special reception with Kaczmarek and Whitford immediately prior to the event, which begins at 4 pm. Those who are interested in becoming a sponsor and ensuring their early reservations should contact Karen Hayes at 626.398.4128.

About the Hosts

Jane Kaczmarek was nominated for seven Emmys for her role as the harried mom on *Malcolm in the Middle*. Now she plays Ted Danson’s wife in ABC’s *Help Me Help You*. Bradley Whitford won an Emmy for his role as Josh Lyman in *West Wing* and now stars in NBC’s *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*. Anne Lamott is the best-selling author of *Bird by Bird*, *Operating Instructions*, *Traveling Mercies* and more, and is known for her deep yet hilarious commentaries on life.

Since the end of apartheid, Archbishop Tutu has been a leader in battling the AIDS pandemic and an outspoken advocate for HIV prevention and treatment. He has served as honorary chair of GAIA events over the last three years.

About GAIA

The Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco, was founded in 2000 in response to the global HIV/AIDS catastrophe. Driven by the desire to stop this devastating disease, William Rankin, GAIA’s president and chief executive officer, and Charles Wilson, GAIA’s board chair and Professor of Neurosurgery, Emeritus, UCSF, focused on using the religious networks in Africa to prevent the spread of the disease in developing countries. GAIA currently works in the African country of Malawi to support village initiatives which prevent the spread of AIDS through providing education, empowerment to women and families, voluntary testing, clothing, food, school supplies, and care to those sick and dying from the disease. In addition to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the organization is supported by more than 30 U.S. congregations and many individual donors. For more information or to learn how you can help, please visit www.thegaia.org.

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In Malawi...

\$21 feeds and clothes and orphan for one year
\$100 pays for yearly secondary school fees for an orphaned child
\$500 buys enough food and medicine for 60 orphans for five months
\$1,000 buys five bicycle ambulances for transporting patients
\$5,000 supports a project providing food, life skills training, and care to 270 people living with HIV/AIDS for a year